Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 710
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 0717

FOR DAS LUERS

USOECD FOR DAS BARRACLOUGH

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: EWT, HU
SUBJECT: MFN AND HUNGARY'S CEMA TRADING REGULATIONS

REF: SECSTATE 40776

1. AT LUNCH FEBRUARY 16 WITH JANOS NYERGES, HE TOLD ME THAT THE HUNGARIANS WOULD ACCEPT THE MINUTE AS DRAFTED WITH "AMERICAN DELEGATION" AND "HUNGARIAN DELEGATION" REPLACING "UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT" AND "GOVERNMENT OF HUNGARY." IN ADDITION THE HUNGARIANS WOULD PREFER "COUNTRIES LISTED" IN ANNEX A OF THE PROTOCOL OF ACCESSION OF HUNGARY INSTEAD OF "CERTAIN COUNTRIES." (LINE THREE PARA ONE OF MINUTE.)

2. VENUE OF THE NEXT SESSION WAS ALSO DISCUSSED. NYERGES MADE IT CLEAR THAT HUNGARIANS WOULD PREFER BUDAPEST ALTHOUGH THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO GO TO WASHINGTON.
SPEAKING "PERSONALLY" HE EMPHASIZED THAT IT WOULD NOT ONLY BE MORE CONVENIENT FOR TOROK TO STAY IN BUDAPEST BUT THE DEPUTY MINISTER WOULD ALSO BE MORE EFFECTIVE OPERATING
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ON THE SPOT RATHER THAN FROM WASHINGTON. HE WOULD HAVE MORE PUNCH DEALING WITH KEY COLLEAGUES FACE TO FACE THAN THROUGH CABLES. NYERGES POINTED OUT THAT HUNGARIAN COMMUNICATION FACILITIES WERE IN NO WAY NEAR AS EFFICIENT AS OURS.

3. WHEN I SAW DEPUTY MINISTER NAGY THIS MORNING, FEBRUARY 17,

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HE STATED THAT ALTHOUGH THE HUNGARIANS WOULD PREFER BUDAPEST
FOR THE NEXT ROUND, THEY WOULD HAVE NO DIFFICULTY IN ACCOMMODATING
US IF WE PREFERRED WASHINGTON. HE RECOGNIZED THAT IT WAS
"NORMAL" FOR THE SECOND ROUND TO BE HELD IN THE OTHER CAPITAL.
NAGY ADDED THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT TAKE SEVERAL DAYS
LONGER IF THEY WERE HELD IN WASHINGTON INSTEAD OF BUDAPEST.
NAGY COULDN'T HAVE BEEN MORE DIPLOMATIC.

4. COMMENT: THE HUNGARIANS WOULD CLEARLY PREFER HOLDING
THE SECOND ROUND IN BUDAPEST THOUGH THEY HAVE BEEN VERY TACTFUL
ABOUT IT. NEGOTIATIONS WOULD PROBABLY
MOVE MORE QUICKLY AND EFFICIENTLY IF WE AGREE TO HOLD THEM
HERE. UNLESS, THEREFORE, THERE ARE REASONS WHICH WASHINGTON
CONSIDERS OVERRIDING I RECOMMEND THAT WE GO ALONG WITH THE
HUNGARIANS. IN ANY CASE, WE NEED A DECISION AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE AND WOULD APPRECIATE INSTRUCTIONS BY TUESDAY MORNING.

5. IF DEPARTMENT DECIDES TO HOLD NEXT ROUND IN
WASHINGTON WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR SENDING ME TRAVEL ORDERS.
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